

2012 Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force Funding Formula Applied Research Services

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) relied on a performance and need-based allocation formula to set maximum award amounts to ensure equitable distribution of JAG funds. The Council approved seven factors to incorporate into the formula: population served, drugs seized, asset forfeiture, required drug task force (DTF) personnel, economic index ranking, number of counties, and percent of budget derived from asset forfeiture. The data for the allocation formula were obtained from the DTF annual reports that contain budgetary, personnel, and performance indicators, as well as the 2010 U.S. Census and the University Of Georgia Economic Vitality Index (EVI).

The EVI evaluates economic conditions and assesses change in conditions over time. Factors considered include employment, population, poverty, wages, unemployment rate, and per capita income. Georgia counties are compared to the average for the Southeast (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee). The ratings range from 0.0 to 4.0 where a higher score reflects increased economic vitality and growth (McKissick & Kane, 2012). The EVI is used in the allocation formula as a need-based metric to ensure that counties and the DTF with less economic vitality are afforded greater funding priority.

Given the variation in county population with Georgia DTFs, the EVI was adjusted (weighted) by the county population (or municipal) to create a single composite EVI rank for each DTF jurisdiction. This EVI weighting ensures that the EVI index for DTF counties with small populations were not given the same weight as large counties when creating the EVI rank for each DTF. The U.S. Census was used to establish the population included in each DTF. For non-census years, the Council will rely in the U.S. Census intercensal estimates, as well as updated measures the Georgia Economic Vitality Index.

The budgetary and performance indicators were collected from DTF annual reports. Total personnel included all funded positions. The total reported monetary street value (\$) was used to measure total drug seizures. Each DTF also reports both state and federal asset forfeitures. For this allocation formula, only state assets were taken into account as percent of the total operating budget. For these metrics, special attention was given to outliers where it is possible that few high-value seizures and/or asset forfeitures artificially elevated the DTF productivity measures compared to actual number of drug seizures and arrests.

A rank score was computed for each of the seven funding formula factors for the 18 non-K9 DTFs funded in the most recent year (K9 DTFs did not have data available for all seven factors). Each DTF had an associated rank score for each of the seven factors, ranging from 1 to 18 (where 18 is the highest rank – e.g., the largest population served personnel). The sum of the rank scores was computed for each DTF, and then a sum across DTFs was computed. Finally, each DTF sum rank score was translated into a proportion of the total sum of rank scores across all DTFs. That proportion is used to calculate the proportion of the new budget to allocate to the DTF.

The Council established \$30,000 minimum funding allocation to each DTF and K-9 task forces. The total FY2012 award is \$2,957,667. After deducting \$30,000 for the 21 DTFs (including K-9 task forces) and a 15% reserve for the K-9 task forces, the adjusted total JAG award for the 18 DTFs is \$1,884,017. The allocation percentages were applied to this adjusted award amount to compute the maximum sub-grantee award for each DTF. The K-9 task force amounts were based on their proportion of the total awarded in FY2011.

McKissick, J.C., & Kane, S.P. (2012). *Calculating Georgia's economic vitality index: 2012 update* (Report No. CR-12-03). The University of Georgia Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.